

# Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

## Minutes of June 6, 2023 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at around 7:01 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Richard Burke VY2RB

Rick Hews VY2WTF

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Gordon Bernard VY2GB

Reg Sharkey VY2REG

Michael McNeill VY2MG

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Bryan Dickie VY2BD

Brian Gorveatt VY2BG

Charles Easter VY2CE

William Caw VY2CAW

Tracy Allen VY2TAZ

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Graeme Brown VY2WT

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Bill Glydon VY2LI

Arden Gallant VY2ALG

Jeannine Fraser SWL

Joel MacNeill VY2KW sent his apologies.

Bill VY2WM asked if there were any sick or silent keys. Somebody mentioned Win VY2WB.

Bill VY2BP is well and regularly attends breakfast.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of May 2, 2023 meeting:

Bill VY2WM advised that since the minutes for last month's meeting had been emailed to all members there was no need for the secretary to read them. Moved by Rick VY2WTF, seconded by William VY2CAW to approve the minutes as circulated. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nothing noted.

President report:

Bill VY2WM informed the club that he had recently participated in an online meeting with other RAC section managers. The topic was the new [Auxiliary Communications Service](#) (ACS) that is to replace the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). There has been a vigorous discussion between the RAC and the Ontario government. The Province of Ontario is considering investing in the RAC for the new ACS.

The RAC has suggested that groups that are doing Field Day should activate all of the RAC call signs. Bill VY2WM asked Bill VY2LI to block off as many of the RAC call signs as possible. It was mentioned that with RAC call signs we wouldn't need to worry about QSL. Brent VY2HF asked if we could upload our call signs for POTA activation. Answer: Yes.

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that the CZ2 Coronation call signs would still be available until July 2 and may also be used during Field Day.

It was decided that the Victoria Park field day group would send an email to Bill VY2LI to officially request permission to use the VY2RAC call sign.

Regarding the inventory of club equipment Bill VY2WM reported that Charles VY2CE had completed a list of items that he had at his house. Bill VY2WM is still waiting on a reply from Dave VY2DAC and expects to complete the inventory list by July. Bill VY2LI asked Charles VY2CE if the club computer was at Charles' or at his house. It was concluded that it was likely at Bill VY2LI's house. Bill VY2WM explained that the idea behind the equipment inventory

was to identify what the club owns, what we might be able to sell, and what we might need once we have a club station again.

#### Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE reported that the total income for the period from January to the end of May 2023 was \$2,066.75. The increase is due to two amateurs joining the club and paying for 2023 membership. The total expenses for the reporting period were \$721.57. This includes May expenses of \$20 for the Annual Return and monthly bank fees.

Charles VY2CE explained that any club expenditure over \$100 needed a motion to be approved. He therefore moved a motion that Field Day expenses should not exceed \$200 total. This was seconded by Bill VY2LI. All in favour, motion carried.

Bill VY2WM asked if the \$200 maximum would be split evenly between the two Field Day groups. Charles VY2CE replied that that might not be possible as the Victoria Park group already had expenses exceeding \$100. Adding the City of Charlottetown as a Named Insured to our RAC insurance policy has incurred a one-time fee of \$75, and being able to set up in Victoria Park costs \$30 including taxes. At this point it was explained that the addition of the City of Charlottetown to our insurance policy did have advantages, as we would be able to rent other public spaces in the city without having to pay for extra insurance again.

#### Correspondence:

Julia VY2JA read out an email from the curator of the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications (DLARC) who asked for the club's permission to add the meeting notes and newsletters that are published on our website to their archive. The DLARC project is part of the Internet Archive, which is best known for the Wayback Machine. Its purpose is to be an online library of the past and present of ham radio and related communications.

Bill VY2WM explained that the older meeting notes were hosted by Ron VE1AIC who wasn't present at the meeting. We would have to ask him for permission before giving the go ahead to DLARC. Fraser VY2FA asked if the information was currently publicly available. Micah VY2MIC and Bill VY2WM confirmed that it was. William VY2CAW commented that it sounded a little like a begging letter and wondered if they might ask for a fee in the future. In

response, Brent VY2HF explained that the letter stated that the project was funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications. Initially, when the internet first came into existence, the 44. IP addresses belonged to ham radio. A few years ago they decided to sell some of them, as there were too many. This is where the grant money is coming from. Bill VY2LI asked if it would make the life of the club secretary more difficult. Bill VY2WM replied that it would be DLARC doing all the work, which is why they had asked for permission to record our notes and newsletters. Ricardo VY2AN commented that they had even offered to digitize any paper issues we had. Charles VY2CE pointed out that the exposure our club would gain from this would be a big positive. Richard VY2RB reminded the club that we would need to ask Ron for permission to use the records hosted on his website before deciding anything. Bill VY2WM asked Micah VY2MIC what exactly was hosted on the club's website and what was hosted by Ron. Micah VY2MIC said that something like the last two years of meeting notes and more recently the newsletters were on the club's official website. Bill VY2WM concluded that the club could still give DLARC access to all the records on our own website even if Ron were to say no. Fraser VY2FA asked if it could be a problem for the club to have our meeting records published on the Internet Archive. Rick VY2WTF and Graeme VY2WT replied that all of our records were already in the public domain and anyone could essentially already do with them as they pleased. VY2JA explained that the DLARC had asked for permission to take the information from our PDF newsletters and create searchable database entries. Brent VY2HF reminded the club that we could go ahead and vote on what to do with the records on the club's website. The records on Ron's website are a separate issue. Bill VY2WM agreed to contact Ron VE1AIC to ask him what he would want to do with the records on his own website. He might want his entire site listed. Bill then moved the motion to give permission to DLARC to archive the records hosted on <https://charlottetownarc.com/>. The motion was seconded by Rick VY2WTF. All in favour, motion passed.

#### Summer Field Day:

Bill VY2WM explained that there would be two club Field Day efforts this year. There would be the traditional style generator-run field day up west in Darnley, and a more open house style purely battery operated field day at Victoria Park in Charlottetown. People can be involved in one or both of these. Please check out the [Field Day 2023 page](#) on our club website.

Darryl VY2OM who is involved in the organization of the field day in Darnley explained that they would likely have two stations, a tri-bander and lower bands, and maybe a 6 m station. The location is 23 Crowley Road. Coming from Malpeque, this is just before the bridge. The event is to take place from Friday afternoon (June 23) until Sunday afternoon (June 25). There is plenty of space for camping trailers and tents. Access to a bathroom is also available. Anyone willing to do the night shift from 12 midnight until 6 AM would be much appreciated.

Ricardo VY2AN who is involved in the organization of the field day at Victoria Park confirmed that the hours of this event would be Saturday (June 24) from 12 PM to 8 PM, and Sunday (June 25) from 12 PM to 3 PM. All the equipment has to be taken down Saturday evening and re-setup on Sunday morning. Ricardo VY2AN informed the club that the insurance for the City of Charlottetown had arrived and the spot at the park was booked. Field Day at Victoria Park is a definite go-ahead.

For anyone wanting to sign up for the various time slots and tasks available, you can do that at this [link](#).

Brent VY2HF who is also involved in organizing the Victoria Park event told the club that the exact location would be behind Kiwanis Dairy bar, close to the tennis courts parking lot.



Brent VY2HF continued to explain that the group would use the [N3FJP Field Day](#) contesting software to log the contacts and keep track of the running score. On the day, there will be one person operating the station and one person updating the log.

There will be two independent single band stations close to each other. The bands covered will be 20m, 15m, 10m, and possibly 6m.

Ricardo VY2AN explained that there would be letters going out tomorrow to various politicians, the fire and police chiefs, as well as the head of the EMO. Thanks to Tracey VY2TAZ for writing them. Tracey VY2TAZ also prepared and released a press release that will be included in the June edition of The BUZZ. Ricardo VY2AN asked if anybody wanted to present something on radio during Field Day at Victoria Park. If not, Ricardo has something he can present on.

Bill VY2WM showed the club the Amateur Radio PEI business cards that Ricardo VY2AN had organized. The cards cost \$50. Bill encouraged everyone to take a few of them to hand out at Field Day and any other time when someone might be interested in amateur radio.

Someone asked who the politicians were who had been invited. One was Jamie Fox, MLA for Borden-Carlton, and the other Rob Lantz, MLA for Brighton. William VY2CAW suggested to also send a letter to Peter Bevan-Baker, the leader of the Green Party and the MLA for New Haven-Rocky Point. Further suggestions were Bloyce Thompson, the MLA for Stanhope-Marshfield, and Sean Casey, the federal MP for PEI. It was agreed to send invitation letters to all three of them.

Charles VY2CE asked if anybody was doing a public service announcement on the CBC. Someone also mentioned Ocean 100. Tracey VY2TAZ said that the written press release had gone out, as previously mentioned, and that next week she would invite the press such as the CBC to attend the Victoria Park event. Tracey asked Rick VY2WTF if he would translate the press release into French to which he agreed.

New/Ongoing Business:

New Hams and Exam Schedule:

Brent VY2HF announced to the club that we had another new ham who had recently passed his exam: Glenn Campbell VY2GC. Brent continued that there would be more new amateur radio operators very soon. He is planning on having exam sessions on June 15 and June 19, 2023.

#### Morse Code Kits:

Brent VY2HF explained that almost all of the morse code kits he had ordered from Georgia, USA, had been distributed or spoken for. Due to a club discount, they were around \$10 CAD each including taxes and delivery. Brent has been trying to order some more from the same organization, but has so far not received a reply. He is therefore investigating an alternative morse code setup. This one would be cheaper at only \$6, but it would not be a kit; it would be ready built.

VY2CAW asked if the initial kit came with building instructions. Brent VY2HF replied that they were readily available online. A building session where members would build the kits together is to be organized at some point this year.

#### Fox Hunt:

Asked when the fox hunt would be, Brent VY2HF answered that it would hopefully take place one Saturday morning after Field Day.

#### Nova Scotia Radio Licencing Program:

Bill VY2LI informed the club that in Nova Scotia high school students could now get high school credits for passing their basic radio exam. This would be a great idea for PEI as well. Bill VY2WM asked if Bill VY2LI could find out the steps NS took to have the radio exam accredited in high schools. Bill VY2LI agreed that he would.

#### The Buffalo Activation Event:

Bill VY2WM said that we would make the Buffalo event a topic at the July meeting.

#### Wood Island Lighthouse Activation on Sunday, June 11:

Ricardo VY2AN and Rick VY2WTF are planning on going to Wood Island on Sunday afternoon (June 11) to activate the lighthouse. Everybody is welcome to join them.

Field Day at the Red Cross in Charlottetown:

Bill VY2WM informed the club that George VY2GF, who is not affiliated with our club, was involved in Field Day preparations at the Red Cross in Charlottetown (29 Paramount Drive). Bill wasn't sure if it was open to all or if attendees required an invitation. Bushra VY2BBK who works for the Red Cross said that last year field day was open to the public. In 2022 the operating hours were 3 PM to 9 PM on the Saturday, and morning until 3 PM on the Sunday. Bill VY2WM said that this was another opportunity for Field Day.

Canada Day Contest:

Brian VY2BG brought up the annual Canada Day Contest. Bill VY2WM said that this was a fun contest, as you can work Canadian stations all day and make some great contacts all across the country.

Bill VY2KW adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM. Bill VY2LI seconded it.

Julia Ashworth  
Secretary

Bill McMaster  
President